

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 30, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Eneida Martinez, Co-chair; José Casco, Co-chair; Michelle Lyons, Jack Banta

**OTHERS:** Ron Pacacha, Associate City Attorney; Council Member Jeanette Herron, Council Member Anthony Paoletto; Tom Gaudett, Mayor's Office.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Martinez called the meeting at 5:42 p.m. A quorum was present.

**151-15 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 10 – Vehicles and Traffic, amend Chapter 10.16 Parking Meters.**

Atty. Pacacha came forward and distributed copies of the amended ordinance with all the changes highlighted. He then gave a summary of the ordinance and outlined the reasons for amending the ordinance. He explained that the City staff had gone to speak with Norwalk Parking staff about their parking practices which includes parking garages, surface lots, street parking and parking at the train stations. Atty. Pacacha said that in Bridgeport, the Police also acts as a Traffic Authority and handle the parking issues and he suggested that the parking issues be separated out from Police duties.

Atty. Pacacha said that parking means economic development and is critical to the success of events. The parking study that was done in the past had several suggestions. The new meters are user friendly and help people comply rather than violate the rules.

Atty. Pacacha said that the staff had met with the Police Commission and the revised ordinance takes into account the Police Commission's suggestions. The new meters collect the information from the license plates and reviews the ticketing process. The City participates in a program with DMV that puts a hold on the renewal of the registrations if the owner has more than five tickets that have issued.

Atty. Pacacha reviewed the current process and said that the ordinance needs to look forward to how people will pay their tickets and parking charges. He directed everyone's attention to Section 10.16.070.

Council Member Lyons asked what kind of accommodations would be made for business owners or downtown residents who do not have off street parking. Atty. Pacacha said that there were some suggestions that the merchants be given merchant tokens for their customers. The State and City Marshals will have their license plates registered and the system will allow them to park without a violation.

Council Member Casco asked what would happen with people who have limited text access or are charged for receiving texts since the new meters would send a resident a text message to let them know their time is up. Atty. Pacacha pointed out that the cost of receiving a text is much smaller than a ticket that they might have to pay. He added that the meters also will continue to accept coins.

Council Member Casco asked if the ordinance will change the hours that they charge for parking. Atty. Pacacha said that he believed that they would keep the current time schedule. Discussion followed about who would have the authority to set the times and fees.

Council Member Banta asked if the City owned any parking garages. Atty. Pacacha said that the one parking garage the City had previously owned had been transferred to the State. Council Member Banta asked if they would be putting meters in on Main Street. Atty. Pacacha said that right now they were focused on just getting the meters in downtown.

Council Member Banta asked how many meters would be ordered. Mr. Gaudett said that there were 823 spaces and believed that there would be 600 meters ordered.

Council Member Martinez asked about who would be overseeing the revenue. Atty. Pacacha said that LAZ would be overseeing the collection of the money and Public Facilities would handle the money.

Council Member Martinez asked how the meters would be taking data in and reporting it to LAZ, including the credit cards, the coins and the plate numbers.

Council Member Martinez asked what this would cost the City. Atty. Pacacha said that the City was expecting 1.4 million and anticipating an increase in revenue. That is the baseline and will include the LAZ Parking costs. The City will not pay for the meters, but there will be some charges from swipe costs and other small transactions.

Council Member Martinez said that there were currently three active meters installed downtown. Mr. Gaudett said the residents are circling it and appear to be somewhat skeptical. Council Member Martinez asked how the cameras would be so accurate they will be able to photograph the license plates. She pointed out that there are vehicles that have expired plates. Mr. Gaudett said that the camera photographs the vehicle pulling in, pulling out and while in the space. He said that the camera will detect that there are no plates on the car and notify the police right away.

Council Member Lyons asked about the back taxes that someone may owe. She wanted to know if the information would be used for the back taxes. She was told that the meters would not be used for collecting back taxes.

Council Member Paoletto said that he was at a restaurant last night and overheard some conversation about the parking meter and it was a positive thing.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO AMEND BY SUBSTITUTION AGENDA ITEM AS EXHIBIT 06.30.16.1**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECOND**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASCO SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASCO MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING  
BEFORE THE JULY 5TH COUNCIL MEETING.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASCO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6;16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services